

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

WOLLASTON et al

Atty. Ref.: 540-318

Serial No. (Cont. of 09/212,569)

Group:

Filed: August 9, 2001

Examiner:

For: FRICTION WELDING METAL COMPONENTS

\* \* \* \* \*

August 9, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Page 1, between the title and line 1, insert the following paragraph(s):

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This application is a continuation of Application No. 09/212,569, filed December 16, 1998, which is a continuation of PCT/GB98/01650 filed June 22, 1998, the entire content of which are hereby incorporated by reference in this application.

**1. Field of the Invention--.**

Page 1, between line 5 and 6, insert the following subheading:

--2. Discussion of Prior Art--.